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MAY 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

Right now, Rhode Island families, small business owners, and frontline workers are in dire need of help as we grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. To answer their calls, I drove down to Washington two weeks ago to cast my vote and pass the [Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act](#). This package will help protect public health and bolster the nation's economy with **additional help** for mom-and-pop shops, restaurants, and healthcare organizations and their employees. The legislation also makes a **massive investment in testing**, which is key for overcoming this crisis.

Passage of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act is particularly important for Rhode Island. Our state is experiencing surging unemployment numbers, and many of our small businesses and healthcare institutions are facing hardship and uncertainty.

This "Phase 3.5 package" replenishes the Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) with **\$310 billion in additional funding**. We created the PPP in late March as part of the [CARES Act](#), but it quickly ran out of money due to overwhelming demand. PPP funding now includes **\$60 billion allocated specifically for small to mid-size community-based lenders, banks and credit unions**, so that the smallest of businesses can get access to aid. Empowering community lenders will also help in reaching and supporting women, minority and veteran-owned businesses.

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of families is the only way we will be able to return to normal. While [Rhode Island is a national leader in testing](#), ramping up more will be critical as communities contemplate how to reopen. **We also need to get robust medical treatment infrastructure in place** because we know that risk remains, and we cannot let up. The latest funding package includes **\$75 billion** for hospitals, clinics and nursing homes to help them access critical resources like **personal protective equipment**. To help us continue to flatten the curve, it provides **\$25 billion for a national testing strategy** that will increase testing capacity.

I know more needs to be done, and I am continuing to fight in Washington to bring additional relief. We need to prioritize **more stimulus payments** for individuals, **aid for states, cities and towns**, and **hazard pay for first responders and essential employees**. We cannot leave our localities behind and ignore the livelihoods of hardworking people like firefighters, police officers and teachers. **A true national recovery is only possible if we have the backs of our states and their residents**. The next COVID-related legislative package needs to take them into account, and I'll work to see that it does.

Please continue to follow guidance from health experts to keep us all safe. Practice social distancing, wash your hands often, and stay home as much as possible. We are here if you need help. If you have any questions or need assistance, my office is open, and you can call us during business hours at **(401) 732-9400** or [email](#) at any time. My office has also compiled helpful resources on my [website](#).

Sincerely,



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For more information about my work in Congress, please visit [my website](#).



Congressman Jim Langevin (RI-02)

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

The **Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)** was enacted into law on March 27, 2020, providing emergency assistance for small businesses and eligible nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It established a new Small Business Administration **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** with forgivable loans to help small businesses cover payroll and other expenses if they retain employees. It also created a new **\$10 billion grant program, leveraging the SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance** to provide small businesses needed capital.

As part of the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**, House Democrats proposed additional funding to strengthen the PPP and Economic Disaster programs. They also fought for desperately needed **support for local healthcare providers and front line workers**, and **robust testing**.

Strengthening the Paycheck Protection Program

Provides an additional **\$310 billion for PPP** and enhances the program by prioritizing America's smallest businesses, including minority-, women-, and veteran businesses.

- Increases the appropriation level for the PPP from **\$349 billion to \$670 billion**.
- **Prioritizes inclusion** of community-based lenders, like small banks and credit unions.
- Creates a **\$60 billion set-aside** for mission-based lenders to make loans to the nation's smallest and underserved businesses.



Expanding the Economic Injury Disaster Program

Expands the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program's capacity with an additional **\$60 billion** for lending and disaster grants to help more small businesses in a timely manner.

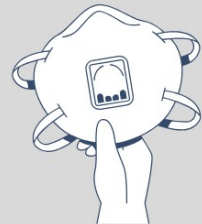
- Prioritizes an additional **\$50 billion** for the SBA Disaster Loans Program Account.
- Appropriates an additional **\$10 billion for Emergency EIDL Grants**.
- Allows agricultural enterprises such as farms to receive EIDL grants and loans.



Supporting Hospitals and Health Care Workers

Bolsters public health with **\$75 billion** in support of healthcare providers combating COVID-19, including hospitals, clinics, and retirement homes and frontline medical personnel.

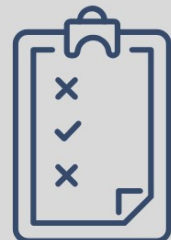
- Funding will reimburse health care providers for health care related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19.
- Supports the acquisition of desperately needed **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** and other life saving materials.
- Funding is **in addition to the \$100 billion** provided for this same purpose in the CARES Act.



Launching a Federal COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan

Pushes for mass coronavirus testing with **\$25 billion** for a strategic plan to better understand the COVID-19 outbreak, save lives, and help reopen the country.

- Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit to Congress a **COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan**.
- Calls for assistance to states and localities for both **active infection and prior exposure testing**, including hospital-based testing, laboratory testing, point-of-care testing, and mobile testing.
- Aims to **increase domestic testing capacity**, including testing supplies, and address disparities in testing.



For more information visit Langevin.House.Gov